

VI Guiding Principles

Definition of Sustainability

*“...to meet the needs of
the present without
compromising the ability
of future generations to
meet their own needs.”*

“Our Common Future,”
The Bruntland Commission,
United Nations 1987

The Commission urges that long-range planning and development of California’s infrastructure be guided by the preceding policy values and the following principles.



1. Improve Our Quality of Life



2. Make the Best Use of Our Assets



3. Provide Equal Access to Opportunity

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1. Improve Our Quality of Life

“In the new era of limits, we must bend the trends by redesigning the State... Instead of simply building infrastructure wherever we can, the limitations we face require us to build things in the right places and, in the process, conserve the right resources. This is a much more difficult task—but, ultimately, it is one that will allow California to thrive, rather than struggle, as our population continues to grow.”

William Fulton, Solimar Research Group

With significant growth projected for California’s future, we need to achieve success in all three “E”s to support future generations:

- Economic Growth
- Environmental Quality
- Social Equity

FOSTER STEWARDSHIP. Ensure a legacy for future generations by using natural resources efficiently, preserving environmental quality, developing self-sufficiency, and nurturing economic growth to ensure continued prosperity.



Main Street, Ventura, California

PHOTO CREDIT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

PLAN BETTER. Recognize that infrastructure systems are complex and interdependent. Ensure that local, regional and statewide entities collaborate on problem solving and integrate disparate planning efforts, such as for land use, housing, transportation and water.

DEVELOP REGIONAL STRATEGIES. California is home to an array of unique and diverse regions with specific needs and capacities. Many areas of infrastructure investment require coordination among neighboring communities to be successfully implemented and achieve maximum return on investment.

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY. Work together with all sectors of the community to achieve our goals. Incorporate diverse perspectives and talents from all Californians, the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

BUILD QUALITY PLACES. Build communities with enduring value—places that make residents proud. Provide more choices in community and building plans and design, including urban, suburban, and rural areas; foster development that creates a sense of community; ensure access to open space; and preserve historic places.

CASE STUDY

Planning for Quality of Life: Envision Utah

Envision Utah is a public/private community partnership focused on the effects of long-term growth in northern Utah. Formed in 1997, the partnership includes 130 leaders from state and local government, businesses, developers, conservationists, landowners, academics, church groups and citizens. Strong public input is key to development and implementation of the State’s Quality Growth Strategy. The partnership is supported by Quality Growth Efficiency Tools, a technical committee made up of representatives from key department heads of state and local governments, regional planning agencies and the private sector, to assist in the analysis of trends, projections and alternative growth scenarios. The Partnership provides the tools, training and resources to public and private sector planners to implement the strategies. A public education campaign is a core part of the mission—“Envision Utah, It’s a difference we can make TOGETHER.”

Source: Envision Utah

CASE STUDY

Improved Public Facilities: Capitol Area East End Complex, Sacramento, California

The East End Complex creates joint use facilities, employs resource efficient building techniques, and provides a new community amenity to the Capitol Park area of downtown Sacramento. The \$392 million, 1.5 million square foot, five building complex will house approximately 6,000 employees, including the Departments of Health Services and Education, and is the largest state government office building project in California's history. The complex will also have a conference training center and child care facilities.

In 1999, the Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency convened a multi-agency Task Force and directed them to incorporate sustainable building measures into the bid documents for the East End Project. The Task Force consisted of representatives from six state entities. The buildings include energy efficient lighting and natural lighting systems, low flow irrigation systems, recycled building materials, and photovoltaic panels to shade cars and generate electricity. The buildings also provide opportunities for tenants to be resource efficient through: recharging stations for electric vehicles, facilities for bicycle users, and office recycling centers.

The complex creates an eastern gateway to Capitol Park, has a \$2.8 million art program budget highlighting California's values and culture, and is projected to save taxpayers \$400,000 annually in energy savings.

Source: California State and Consumer Services Agency

2. Make the Best Use of Our Assets

"We need to think about water, transportation and even school construction in a resources context—these facilities can and should provide multiple values for our society. Parks can function as spreading basins for groundwater recharge; greenways along roads can provide trails and access as well as reduce air pollution; schools can double as community centers."

Mary Nichols, Secretary, California Resources Agency

In order to flourish in the future, we will need to get the most from our use of natural resources, human capital, investment dollars, and existing infrastructure, including our older communities. To do so, we must use all of our precious resources more efficiently than we have in the past.

IMPROVE PERFORMANCE. Use technological advances, processing improvements, and other innovations to deliver effective solutions as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. Better planning and better data are critical to the success of these efforts.

USE NATURAL RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY. Employ practices that make the most of our finite supply of land, water, and other natural resources and our existing natural resource infrastructure, particularly through conservation, "green" building, and improved site design.

IMPROVE PUBLIC SECTOR EFFICIENCY. To achieve high performance, encourage and support creative thinking by public agencies and employees. Encourage new technology applications and improved planning, execution and management techniques, such as lifecycle costing and management. Look to other public and private organizations for new techniques and best practices. Ensure accountability for results.

OPTIMIZE USE OF FACILITIES AND ASSETS. Achieve maximum efficiency from facilities and other assets through joint-use and multiple-use strategies, especially in partnership with the public and nonprofit sectors.

MAXIMIZE OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES. Make our dollars go as far as possible by understanding and using our leverage opportunities, such as providing seed capital for public-private partnerships and applying creative financing strategies.



*Interior Perspective
Capitol Area East End Complex,
Sacramento, California*

PHOTO CREDIT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

3. Provide Equal Access to Opportunity

“California is home to a diverse population. Over the next 20 years, California’s challenge is to make proper investments in all infrastructure that promote quality of life and prosperity for all Californians.”

Grantland Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

To fully realize California’s potential, both human and economic, the opportunity to achieve personal prosperity and quality of life must be extended to all Californians.

PROVIDE REAL CHOICES.

Provide people a variety of options at reasonable prices. For example, make housing affordable in desirable neighborhoods, be it suburban, urban or rural, and provide transit options that are viable alternatives to personal auto use.



PHOTO CREDIT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFER LIFELONG LEARNING. Provide facilities that offer quality educational experiences that prepare children and workers alike to participate in the global economy. Provide opportunities for the existing workforce to upgrade skills for upward mobility in this dynamic economy.

PROVIDE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO PUBLIC GOODS. Provide affordable access to necessities such as education, housing, water, and energy. Provide easy access to basic services required to interact successfully with society, including transportation and telecommunications. Many California communities traditionally have experienced underinvestment. Investing in these communities will provide real economic growth and community benefit.

CASE STUDY

Computer Access in Public Schools: Digital High School Program, Arcata, California

With this program, Arcata High School integrated technology into instruction, curriculum development and assessment. A school-wide network allows access to the Internet and software programs from classrooms and the school library/media center. Students can access the school network from any computer with Internet capability. Every student has storage space for his/her work reserved on the network, and can work on school projects and assignments from computer pods available in each department, individual classrooms, libraries or at home. All students take a required computer applications class during freshman year as a basis for classes in subject content areas, computer programming and graphic design. Teachers develop lessons that include the application of technology, and collaborate with business and community partners so that students receive the best possible preparation for career, education or employment options following graduation.

Source: Office of the California Secretary for Education